West Virginia Libraries

ANNUAL MEETING ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST
VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION WILL
BE HELD:

OCTOBER 16-17

HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

AN OUTSTANDING PROGRAM IS BEING ARRANGED

COMPLETE DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

ANNUAL MEETING ANNUAL MEETING

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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Editor: Robert Munn. West Virginia University. Morgantown West Virginia
Editorial Assistants:
College Libraries..Floyd W. Miller. Reference Department. West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia.
Public Libraries....Virginia Ebeling. Ohio County Public Library. Wheeling, West Virginia.
School Libraries...Mrs. Faith Kessell Frey. Chapmanville High School, Chapmanville, West Virginia.

KANAWHA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 3, 1959 was a significant day in the history of the Kanawha County Public Library. On this day the Library completed 50 years of public library service to the citizens of Charleston and Kanawha County.

The history of the Kanawha County Public Library began in July, 1908 when a committee of the Woman's Kanawha Literary Club was appointed to organize action in support of a public library in Charleston.

Their hopes became a reality when on June 3, 1909, with a few hundred books and one librarian, the Charleston Public Library was opened to the public. Its quarters were in the Y. M. C. A. Building on Capitol Street, with Miss Mabel Delle Jones as the first librarian.

In the early years of its existence, the Library's quarters were changed frequently. The first move occurred in the summer of 1912 when the Y. M. C. A. needed space to accommodate its own expanding services. Rent-free rooms were provided by the First Presbyterian Church on Quarrier Street, and the Library moved into the former residence of the pastor. On May 15, 1913, the Library was moved to the Y. W. C. A. Building on Virginia Street, just east of McFarland. On September 3, 1914, the Library secured quarters at McFarland and Kanawha Streets (Kanawha Boulevard). The Library remained here until March, 1921, when it moved to the Red Cross Building on the levee near Capitol Street. Finally, in May, 1926, the Library moved to its present site.The

Charleston Library became the Kanawha County Public Library in 1934.

The present home of the Kanawha County Public Library is the old Capitol Annex Building located at Lee, Hale, and Dickinson Streets in downtown Charleston. The building was erected in 1904 to house the State Supreme Court, the Auditor's and Treasurer's offices and the offices of the Adjutant General. Later, the West Virginia Department of Archives and History occupied the top floor.

Organizations and institutions such as the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Morris Harvey College, the State Teachers Retirement Board, and the West Virginia State Medical Association also have maintained offices in the building at one time or another. Since 1949 the Charleston Children's Museum has occupied rent-free quarters in the building.

The Kanawha County Public Library said "welcome" to visitors with an open house and reception on June 3, 1949. Mabel Delle Jones (Mrs. Raymond H. O'Brien) the first librarian and Mrs. John Norvell, Sr., charter member of the Woman's Kanawha Literary Club were guests of honor.

The library received splendid publicity. Generous and enthusiastic support and cooperation in reporting and helping to promote this significant community event came from the following: Charleston Daily Mail, Charleston Gazette, Television Station WCHS, Television Station WHTN, Television Station WSAZ.

In addition, special bookmarks and posters were used. Approximately 500 letters were sent to individuals and organizations in Charleston and Kanawha County. All such channels were

employed to bring this event to the attention of the public.

A reception was held in the Browsing Room for all visitors. Members of the Library Board and the Woman's Kanawha Literary Club arranged the reception and greeted the many visitors. Special displays of old-time photographs and other exhibits of early library materials were shown.

****

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

The Clarksburg Public Library celebrated its 52nd anniversary with the community attending open house during National Library Week.

The centennial of the Ohio County Public Library was May 9, 1959. The Wheeling newspapers had excellent articles about the history of the Library. In the lobby exhibit case there was a display of the first minute book of the Wheeling Library Association of 1859, and the early treasurer's report of the Association.

LIBRARY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

A workshop for public librarians was conducted by the Library Commission in Charleston, May 4-5, 1959. The workshop was financed by the Library Commission from Library Services Act funds as a part of its plan for the extension of rural library service.

Registration and tours of the Library Commission headquarters took place on Monday morning, May 4, and sessions were held at the Daniel Boone Hotel Monday afternoon, Monday evening, and Tuesday morning, May 5.

Official delegates, who received compensation as representatives of their libraries, totaled 45. Total registration for the workshop was 101.

Special consultants for the workshop were:

Robert S. Ake, Assistant Director, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Maryland.

Harold W. Apel, President, West Virginia Library Association, Librarian, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia.

Miss Jane Brugger, Chief, Catalog Department, Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston, West Virginia.

Mrs. Frances Neel Cheney, Associate Professor, Library School, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee.

Miss Elizabeth B. Hage, Director, Prince George's County Memorial Library, Blandensburg, Maryland.

Wilfred L. Morin, Library Extension Specialist, Library Services Branch, United States Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Monday afternoon sessions focused attention on "Improving Our Book Collections." On Monday evening Mr. Harry Brawley, member of the Library Commission, was toastmaster. Mr. Wilfred Morin spoke on the subject "The Library Services Act, Past - Present - Future": Miss Parks on "West Virginia and the Library Services Act"; and Mr. Apel on "Needed Legislation for Better Public Library Service."

On Tuesday morning special interest discussion groups consisted of: "Cataloging for Small Libraries"; "Reference and Interlibrary Loans"; "Regional Library Problems"; "Coordination of Existing Public Libraries in Larger Programs"; and "Extending Service from the Largest County Libraries; Huntington Public, Kanawha County Public, and Ohio County Public Library."

Proceedings for the workshop are being prepared by the Library Commission and will be available soon.

* * * * * * * *

LIBRARIANS NEEDED BY COMMISSION

Two librarians are needed soon after July 1 to organize and develop a new regional library which will serve Raleigh and Fayette Counties, West Virginia (200,000 population). This year the Library Commission has surveyed the counties, processed 20,000 new books and purchased two new bookmobiles in preparation for beginning of program.

One Regional Librarian needed. Beginning salary up to $6,000. Degree from accredited library school, and three or more years successful experience required.

One Coordinator of Reader's Services needed. Beginning salary $4,800-$6,000, depending on qualifications. Degree from accredited library school required.

Apply to: Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary
West Virginia Library Commission
2004 Quarrier Street
Charleston 1, West Virginia

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

KCPL BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Mrs. John T. Keenan was elected to the Library Board of the Kanawha County Public Library to fill the unexpired term of the late Colonel C. Phillips.

EXPANSION PROGRAMS.

Mrs. Nelle Griffin of the Benedum Civic Center Library of Bridgeport reports that extensive plans are underway for expanding the reading and study area from a seating space of 24 to 56. Also in the plans are a West Virginia room, a Senior reading room, and shelving space for an additional 10,000 volumes.

Clarksburg Public Library received $200.00 from the estate of George Rosen for the building fund.

Mrs. Lois Hiebel reports that the Carnegie Library of Parkersburg is undergoing extensive remodeling.

The Raleigh County Public Library, Beckley, is also expanding its facilities according to Mrs. Cecil Graham. A new wing has been added to the library which more than doubles the space in the library, and an electrically operated book hoist will be accessible on all four levels of the split level plan.

The Sistersville Library, which has just completed its 50th year of service to the community, plans to replace its 50 year old building. Plans are being formulated for the construction of a new library building.

EXTENSION SERVICES.

The Marshall County Library has two deposit collections located in centers which are deserving of the service, the Glendale Hospital and the Marshall County Children's Center.

The Fresh Air Farm, the day camps, and the Scout camps of the area all have received deposit collections of books from the Ohio County Public Library. These agencies also use the Film Department of the library.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY.

Mrs. Elsa H. Williams reports that a group was organized in Martinsburg last Fall and now boasts of a membership of over 250. The first project of the group was collecting books for a spring sale. Congratulations to the "Friends", and hope the proceeds of the sale were good.

PUBLICITY DE LUXE

The interview of the Wheeling-News-Register reporter with Miss Nancy Matthews, Children's Librarian of the Ohio County Public

Library, concerning the difference between true fantasy and exaggerated fantasy in children's books. The article and photographs covered a full page in the April 26th issue of the paper.

The full page and photographically illustrated article in the June 7th issue of the Charleston Gazette, about the West Virginia Library Commission.

The Charleston Gazette of June 7th also had an article about the history of the Kanawha County Public Library.

Miss Charlottee Bailey of the Clarksburg Public Library reports that a weekly story hour is being conducted by the members of the League for Service and the local chapter of AAUW.

A six week story hour was conducted at the Martinsburg Public Library. Mrs. Else Williams reports that the story hour was taped at the library and played as a repeat performance over the radio on Saturday morning.

The Huntington Public Library reports about their Reading Club for 1959 in their publication "The Fortnighter." If you are not on the mailing list to receive the publication write to the Library in Huntington and ask for the May 20, 1959 issue of "The Fortnighter."

TOURS

The Benedum Civic Center, Bridgeport held a tea and tour of the library for the faculties of the Bridgeport schools.

Mrs. Mattie Bailey of Bluefield reports that Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and groups from the schools make frequent visits to the library.

Visiting Scouts are told of the various books collections, the procedure for borrowing books, and the use of their library card when they visit the Marion County Library. Mrs. Waitman H. Conaway reports that groups visiting the library will become future borrowers, and this is one of the best ways of bringing attention to the library in any community.

The Editor wishes to thank each one of you for your prompt response to the questionnaires which were sent out this past spring. Thank you again for all the news.

PENDING FEDERAL LEGISLATION OF SIGNIFICANCE TO WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

LIBRARY SERVICES ACT APPROPRIATION:

Senate approved appropriation of $7,500,000, June 24, according to a telegram received from Senator Robert C. Byrd, member of the Senate appropriations sub-committee on HEW appropriations.

Status: Now in conference committee of Senate-House.

SCHOOL SUPPORT ACT OF 1959:

On June 8, the House Education and Labor Committee reported an amended bill (H. R. 22) which authorizes $25 per child for a four-year period to the states for constructing school facilities and teachers' salaries. The term "school facilities" is defined in the bill to mean "classrooms and related facilities (including furniture, instructional materials other than textbooks"... This would make possible the allocation by the State educational agency of funds for school libraries and materials. The House bill is now pending in the Rules Committee. In the Senate, the Education Subcommittee is considering S.2 (Murray bill) and other educational measures.

Status: House-Pending in the Rules Committee.
Senate-Hearings have been completed.

FEDERAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ACT OF 1949 (Amendments to):

(S.155) permits donations of government surplus property to "libraries which are tax supported or publicly owned and operated." The House bill (H. R.4254) would provide for the donation of surplus property to "public libraries which are tax supported in whole or in part" and further provides that for the purposes of this act "a public library shall be considered to be an educational institution."

Status:

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1954:

(H.R. 3667)-Amends section 170 (b) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(H.R. 2444)-Same as above. Permits as a deduction for Federal Income Tax purposes certain charitable contributions to libraries.

These bills would include public libraries in the treasury's definition of an "educational institution" so that the public libraries could receive the same benefits under the Internal Revenue Code that are now available to college, university, and school libraries.

The above benefits would mean that an individual taxpayer as well as a corporation would receive the same deduction for a charitable

contribution to a public library as to a church, educational institution, a hospital, etc.

Status:

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & PUBLIC WORKS ACT OF 1959:

(S.1955) a bill to expand the public facility loan program of the "Community Facilities Administration." The term "public facilities" includes public schools and libraries.

This bill would facilitate establishing libraries in many communities which otherwise would be unable to acquire loans.

Status:

COLLEGE HOUSING:

(S.57) The omnibus housing bill. Included in this bill in Title V-College Housing-is a provision for "loans for classroom buildings and other academic facilities." It is understood that the term "other academic facilities" would permit loans to educational institutions for the construction of new or the improvement of existing college library buildings.

Status: Senate-House Conference Committee is considering. Presidential veto threatens the present bill.

LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE BLIND:

(S.2077) a bill to establish a temporary Presidential commission to study and report on problems related to blindness and the needs of blind persons. One of the charges of the proposed Commission is an appraisal of the quantity and quality of all services, programs and activities supported by Federal funds, including "(D) books for the blind in raised print and recorded form and library services, including problems of procurement and distribution..."

Status: Hearings have been held by Special Education Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor committees. ALA filed a statement urging that a professional in the field of library services to the blind be included in the membership if a National Commission is appointed to consider the problems related to blindness.

NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER ACT:

(H.R.6047)-a bill to "amend the National Cultural Center Act to provide that the building to be constructed for the performance of symphonies and operas shall be named the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Hall, to provide for a library of the performing arts, and for other purposes." This proposed fine arts library would house such materials as manuscripts, photographs, motion pictures, recordings, and writings directly or indirectly related to the performing arts.

The National Cultural Center was authorized last September and a 10-Acre site provided on condition that $25 million estimated cost for the construction of the Center be raised by public subscription within five years. A 34-member advisory committee to help plan and run the proposed National Cultural Center was appointed by President Eisenhower in April of this year.

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY SYSTEM:
(H.R.519 - Revision of the Depository Library System)

The WVLA favors passage which would mean that U. S. Government documents would be more widely and efficiently distributed in W. Va.

Depository libraries would be relieved of the mailing costs and therefore there would be a greater balance in their budgets for purchasing other materials.

Status of Bill: Passed House Mr. 16, 1959. Now in Senate for consideration.

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP FOR 1958-59

Personal

Frances Alethea Alderson
23 B Brooks Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Sue H. Alexander
Box 206
Barboursville, West Virginia

Mrs. C. B. Allen
Moorefield, West Virginia

Thelma D. Amick
5602 Virginia Avenue, S. E.
Charleston 4, West Virginia

Mrs. Wilson Anderson
1600 Louden Heights Road
Charleston, West Virginia

Catherine D. Apel
249 Forest Road
Huntington 5, West Virginia

Harold Apel
P. O. Box 1505
Huntington, West Virginia

Art Guild Bindery, Inc.
324 East Ninth Street
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

John T. Austin
1036 Pierce Avenue
Columbus 13, Ohio

Omar A. Bacon
327 Sunset Avenue
Wenatchee, Washington

Clarice Bailes
1621-B Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Charlotte T. Bailey
635 Main Street (West)
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Mattie Bailey
Bluefield Public Library
Municipal Building
Bluefield, West Virginia

Rosalie R. Baker
1511 Washington Street E
Charleston 1, West Virginia

Ray S. Barker
Shepherd College
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Rachel B. Barlow
Charles W. Gibson Public Library
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Alice G. Bauer
312 Mulberry Street
Morgantown, West Virginia

Mrs. Mary E. Bickel
Rt. 1, Box 110
St. Albans, West Virginia

Evelyn Jane Bland
601 Stratton Street
Logan, West Virginia

Margaret Seidel Bobbitt
1662 Glenway Lane
Huntington, West Virginia

Lorise C. Boger
124 Fayette Street
Morgantown, West Virginia

Elizabeth Boggs
190 Locust Avenue
Spencer, West Virginia

Mrs. Vivian R. Boughter
West Liberty State College
West Liberty, West Virginia

Robert Lee Boyd
Central Union Building
Wheeling, West Virginia

Bro-Dart Industries, Inc.
Newark, New Jersey

Hester N. Brown
603 Wood Road
Charleston, West Virginia

Eleanor Jane Brugger
3504 Staunton Avenue
Charleston 4, West Virginia

Juliette Bryson
1212 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Robert Whitefield Bullen
Apt. 406, 19 Bradford Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Minnie K. Burdette
Mason County Public Library
Point Pleasant, West Virginia

Joanna Burke
103 Meigs Avenue
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Edward A. Button
4059 Wolf Road
Western Springs, Illinois

Mrs. Janet Callard
717 Fifth Avenue
St. Albans, West Virginia

Mrs. Catherine Campbell
Pendleton County Library
Franklin, West Virginia

Nancy Canterbury
Kimberly, West Virginia

Bertha Chadderton
Sistersville Public Library
Sistersville, West Virginia

Cincinnati News Company
659 East Sixth Street
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Mildred Conard
Shenandoah Junction
West Virginia

Mary Will Conway
Public Library of Marion County
Fairmont, West Virginia

Roy Bird Cook
5 Manor Place
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Roy Bird Cook
5 Manor Place
Charleston, West Virginia

Maurice DeLand
Box 2243
Charleston, West Virginia

Charles C. Dickinson
P. O. Box 311
Charleston 21, West Virginia

Mrs. Viola D. Dodge
116 Wilson Court
Huntington 1, West Virginia

Mrs. Bernice Dorsey
1406 Fifteenth Street
Huntington, West Virginia

Richard C. Doty
1541 Montgomery Street
Reading, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Kathryn B. Dunlap
102 Academy Court
Fayetteville, West Virginia

Virginia Ebeling
100 Washington Avenue
Wheeling, West Virginia

Joan M. Ellis
222 Wilson Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia

Elizabeth Estill
215 Brooks Street, Apt. 4
Charleston, West Virginia

Josephine Fidler
Alderson Broaddus College
Philippi, West Virginia

Ruth Figgatt
821 Hudson Street
St. Albans, West Virginia

George A. Flohr, Company
809 Walnut Street
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Alderson Fry
West Virginia University
Medical Center Library
Morgantown, West Virginia

Gassaway Women's Club
Gassaway, West Virginia

General Bookbinding Company
1766 East 133rd Street
East Cleveland 12, Ohio

Virginia B. Gibson
2018 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Mary Louise Graham (Mrs. C.H.)
200 South Kanawha Street
Beckley, West Virginia

Ethel Green
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Dollie Greiner
Nuttall High School
Lookout, West Virginia

Alice R. Griffin
Washington Irving High School
Clarksburg, W st Virginia

Mrs. Mary H. Guiney
2004 Quarrier Street
W. Va. Library Commission
Charleston, West Virginia

Paul W. Gunderman
10 Blenheim Road
Columbus 14, Ohio

Mrs. Alice Gygax
2024 Orchard Avenue
Belle, West Virginia

Mrs. Clara Hampton
10 1/2 Main Street
New Haven, West Virginia

Arthur Hanson
610 Peterson Drive
Charleston, West Virginia

Lena Harris
Metewan, West Virginia

Sam R. Harshbarger
Box 254, Milton, West Virginia

Lela H. Henry
Huntington Public Library
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. Jean Hereford
410 34th Street
Vienna, West Virginia

Mrs. Lois Hiebel
832 Main Street
Belpre, Ohio

Margaret Hogg Hilliard
Kanawha County Public Library
Charleston, West Virginia

Mabel Holsberry
218 N. Walnut Street
Philippi, West Virginia

Emma D. Holt
207 Fayette Pike
Montgomery, West Virginia

Helen Holt
236 Carrington Court
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. Hazel C Hubbard
Route 3, Box 364
Princeton, West Virginia

Celia Humes
Brooke Company Library Assoc.
Follansbee, West Virginia

Joan Della Hurley
1421 Virginia Street, East
Charleston, West Virginia

Barbara Ann Joachim
Cedar Grove, West Virginia

Dorothy B. Johnson
Keyser-Mineral Co. Library
32 Maple Avenue
Keyser, W st Virginia

John A. Jones
Weirton Steel Company
Weirton, West Virginia

Lawrence Jordan
West Virginia State College
Institute, West Virginia

Mrs. John T. Keenan
740 Holley Street
St. Albans, West Virginia

Hazel C. Kellogg
1215 E. Washington Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Eva M. Keyser
123 Beckley Avenue
Beckley, West Virginia

Lou Kimmins
Valley Grove, West Virginia

Sydney M. Kleeman
910 Edgewood Drive
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. J. B. Kline
Branch Library
Milton, West Virginia

Martha Kochenderfer
Charles Town High School
Charles Town, West Virginia

Evelyn M. Kocher
Apt. 3, 305 Maple Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia

Mrs. Kathryn M. Kraybill
433 - 11th Avenue
Huntington 1, West Virginia

Mary Alice Lafon
1220 Ninth Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. Helen Las
Welch High School
Welch, West Virginia

June P. Lay
Box 4157
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Olive Lewis
1703 Latrobe Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Mrs. C. F. Lyne
Shepherdstown Public Library
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Robert R. McClarren
Huntington Public Library
900 Fifth Avenue
Huntington 1, West Virginia

John Bell McCraw, Jr.
Montgomery, West Virginia

W. C. McGregor
150 Peninsula Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

Mrs. Lucile E. McNary
Box 157
Sutton, West Virginia

Minnie T. Madsen
900 - Fifth Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia

John Stacy Maine
Box 365
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

Nancy A. Matthews
Ohio County Public Library
Wheeling, West Virginia

Floyd W. Miller
1037 Charles Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia

Mrs. Alice C. Milner
1728 Fifth Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. Gene S. Morgan
2403 Dudley Avenue
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Mildred Moyers
780 Weaver Street
Morgantown, West Virginia

Robert Munn
West Virginia University Library
Morgantown, West Virginia

Elizabeth B. Neel
West Virginia University Library
Morgantown, West Virginia

Mrs. Russell G. Nesbitt
38 Orchard Road
Wheeling, West Virginia

Anna Nestmann
125 Tremont Street
South Charleston 3, West Virginia

Eloise Newlon
1938 Bona Vista
Charleston, West Virginia

Rosa V. Oliver
527 16th Street
Huntington, West Virginia

John V. Otell
Box 54
Kittanning, Pennsylvania

Dora Ruth Parks
1325 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Virginia Parriott
1110 Sixth Street
Moundsville, West Virginia

Marlene E. Parrish
P. O. Box 117
New Cumberland, West Virginia

Charles D. Patterson
Glenville State College
Glenville, West Virginia

Virginia Taylor Perry
422 Grand Street
Morgantown, West Virginia

Ida M. Peters
3513 Burk Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Ora Peters
Box 246
Athens, West Virginia

Margaret Pettit
Box 529
Webster Springs, West Virginia

John Pianfetti
5145 Russet Drive
Charleston 2, West Virginia

Edna C. Prunty
542 Elizabeth Street
Charleston, West Virginia

John V. Ray
1510 Kanawha Valley Building
Charleston, West Virginia

Florence K. Reese
West Virginia University Library
Morgantown, West Virginia

Cecil Alexander Reid, Jr.
1570 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

Douglas C. Reid
Public Library Consultant
State of Connecticut
Box 2219
Hartford, Connecticut

Earl E. Rich
78 Franklin Street
Welch, West Virginia

Cora B. Ritchie
1430 Sixth Avenue, Apt. 5
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. Omer L. Robinson
71 Elkhorn Street
Welch, West Virginia

William J. Robison
Box 10
Marietta, Ohio

Mrs. Winona Roderick
Courtney Drive
Lewisburg, West Virginia

George A. Flohr Company
Walter Rush
809 Walnut Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

Joseph Ruzicka, Inc.
3200 Elm Avenue
Baltimore 11, Maryland

Josephine Savaro
Wheeling College Library
Wheeling, West Virginia

John Edward Scott
Box 303
Institute, West Virginia

Harry Lee Shanklin
Hurricane, West Virginia

Mrs. Nokomis Shelton
P. O. Box 1023
Welch, West Virginia

Mary Shipper
Potomac State College
Keyser, West Virginia

Donald C. Shonk
1524 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia

Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff
1347 College Park
Fairmont, West Virginia

Robert F. Simmons
906 Greendale Drive
Charleston, West Virginia

Evelyn Simon
Box 199
Spencer, West Virginia

Mrs. Cedric Smith
Elmwood
Wheeling, West Virginia

Frances Springston
1607 Dewey Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Mrs. B. A. Starcher
898 East Avenue
Shinnston, West Virginia

Helen Stockert
21 Madison Street
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Daisy J. Summers
Sherman High School
Seth, West Virginia

Mrs. Cary Bowen Sutton
2009 1/2 Washington Street, East
Charleston, West Virginia

Ruth Swentzel
2112 Liberty Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Mrs. Irene Fetty Van Royen
317 Laurel Street
Morgantown, West Virginia

Mrs. Mary Varney
Box 347
Barboursville, West Virginia

Betty Jane Wade
Shinnston High School
Shinnston, West Virginia

Mrs. Vennelda Ware
1689 Martha Road
Barboursville, West Virginia

Nan Watzman
281 Hillcrest Drive
R.D. No. 3
Wellsburg, West Virginia

Weise-Winckler Bindery, Inc.
631 North Street
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Mrs. Otis G. Wilson
619 South Terrace
Huntington, West Virginia

Mrs. R. M. Wilson
581 Main Street
Logan, West Virginia

Nicholas Winowich
1538 Clark Road
Charleston, West Virginia

Carolyn Matthews Witcher
Box 76
Institute, West Virginia

Mary B. Wolfe
Box 28
Sophia, West Virginia

Mrs. Edna R. Woolery
Bethany, West Virginia

Robert H. Yockey
Bethany College
Bethany, West Virginia

Robert L. Zimmer
1819 Jefferson Park Avenue
Charlottesville, Virginia

Mrs. C. E. Zipf
Pleasants County Public Library
St. Marys, West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP FOR 1958-59

Institutional

Beckley College
Beckley, West Virginia

Louis Bennett Public Library
Weston, West Virginia

Carnegie Library
725 Green Street
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Clarksburg Public Library
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Fairmont State College Library
Fairmont, West Virginia

Gaylord Bros., Inc.
155 Gifford Street
Syracuse, New York

Charles W. Gibson Library
East Main and Sedgwick Streets
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Glenville State College Library
Glenville State College
Glenville, West Virginia

Grafton Public Library
City Building
Main Street
Grafton, West Virginia

Hardy County Public Library Assoc.
Box 101
Moorefield, West Virginia

Harrison-Upshur Regional Library
51 Marion Street
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Huntington Public Library
900 Fifth Avenue
Huntington 1, West Virginia

Kanawha County Public Library
Lee and Hale Streets
Charleston, West Virginia

Marshall College Library
Huntington, West Virginia

Morris Harvey College
Charleston, West Virginia

Ohio County Public Library
2100 Market Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

Union Carbide Chemicals Company
The Library
P.O. Box 8004
South Charleston 3, West Virginia

Union Carbide Chemicals Company
Development Department Library
South Charleston, West Virginia

Mary H. Weir Public Library
3442 Main Street
Weirton, West Virginia

West Library State College Libr.
West Liberty, West Virginia

W. Va. Dept. of Archives & History
State Capitol Building
Charleston, West Virginia

West Virginia Library Commission
2004 Quarrier Street
Charleston, West Virginia

W. Va. State College Library
Institute, West Virginia

West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia

West Virginia Wesleyan Coll. Lib.
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Wheeling College
Wheeling, West Virginia

Williamson Public Library
Williamson, West Virginia